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ABSTRACT

2 The disclosure details the implementation of an apparatus, method, and
3 system for a tunneling client access point (TCAP). The disclosure teaches a highly secure,
4 portable, power efficient storage and data processing mechanism. The TCAP “tunnels” data
5 through an access terminal (AT). The data may be tunneled through the AT’s input/output
6 facilities. In one example embodiment, the TCAP has no user input or output peripherals.
7 The TCAP connects to an access terminal and a user employs the AT’s user input peripherals
8 for input, and views the TCAPs activities on the AT’s display. This enables the user to
9 observe data stored on the TCAP without it being resident on the AT, which can be useful to
10 maintain higher levels of data security. Also, the TCAP may tunnel data through an AT
11 across a communications network to access remote servers without requiring its own more
12 complicated set of peripherals and I/O. One aspect of the disclosure teaches an elegant user
13 interface for allowing a user to execute and access data from almost any access terminal. The
14 disclosure teaches how to allow users to employ traditional large user interfaces that users are
15 already comfortable with on a device that offers greater portability, greater memory
16 footprints, lower power consumption, and greater data security. As such, the disclosed
17 tunneling client access point is very easy to use; at most it requires the user to simply plug
18 the device into any existing and available desktop or laptop computer, through which, the
19 TCAP can make use of a traditional user interface and peripherals. The disclosure also
20 teaches a TCAP server (TCAPS). The TCAPS extends the storage and processing capacities
21 and capabilities of TCAPs. Also, by providing the equivalent of a plug-n-play virtual private

22 network (VPN), the disclosure teaches how the TCAP provides for certain kinds of accessing
23 of remote data in an easy and secure manner. The result and manner in which this is
24 achieved, yields the generation of a never before accessible, novel, non-obvious, yet
25 extremely useful portable computing and storage device.